

GREEN LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETING 1

9/7/06 6 – 7:30 P.M.

Preference for possible locations

- Area 2 has too much basketball noise and homeless use - Against that site
- I like Site 5
- Location 5 – highly used by soccer players, no landscape would survive
- I agree that Site #5 is used by soccer! Too much conflict of use
- Rain shelter kiosk – area 3 has the best connectivity and desire for shelter from rain
- #2 not desired – too dangerous, a hangout
- Likes esplanade as symbolic major entry; #1 and #3 – yes. #2 – no.
- The area around the community center is an existing huge hangout and play area, we do not need to add more busyness. Likes #4. Quiet space.
- Improving Sites 2 and 5 would bring more people to park, and we should not encourage more parking pressure
- Location cannot be decided without more discussion on usage. #2 nicely builds on Olmsted; dress up bldg; activate dead space
- #2 functions as shade garden already
- Allee - careful scattering of tables, chairs could be good; combine improvements to Sites #1, 2 and 3.
- Unconcentrated entries preferred, i.e. 1-3
- #1 or #3 – consider bike traffic
- Between #5 and coffee shop – add seating and features to build connectivity at this edge of the lake – viewing, etc
- Plan for plaza is good at this end (of the lake). Sites #1 and #2 would work, little further from projected development, or half in-between
- Pool terminus is horrible, allee has some positive uses, we need a meeting place

Origin of Project

- How was this project decided to proceed? (neighborhood plan, then levy)
- What if we want nothing?
- Five years ago – who did the original neighborhood plan? Green lake planning committee with extensive neighborhood outreach over several years.

- Bus shelter site – originally geared to replace it, but then demolished only – how did that decision get made?
- Primary purpose of connectivity is flawed, make functions within park better – i.e. more benches and rest stops. Use of park is within WHOLE park!
- Focus too much on Urban Village response
- Good idea to revisit the IDEA since it has been a few years and people change; improvements have happened since those discussions and plans were made.

Main purpose of Improvements

- Triangle at the end of Ravenna Blvd. – has it been considered for this project?
- What does connectivity mean?
- Need connectivity to lake
- Total path around lake IS experience. Access to the Park occurs at all points, there should not be one main entry. Better ways to spend money.
- Is there another plan in the future to look at more entries? Why only one entry here?
- Against anything along Green Lake Way; do not need more invitations to enter
- Again – main function is walk-around lake, missing is a natural place to congregate at the edge of the lake.
- Keep the park as a park. Do not put too many things in this park. No lighting (streetlike)
- Corner proposal is already well used / concentrated and comm. Connects at all points, can other points be looked at to diffuse the intensity at this location

Specific Ideas

- Provide restroom adjacent to plaza
- Accessibility for restrooms
- Communication to Albertson developer
- Do existing gardens tend us to focus in one area?
- Consider the affect of improvements on the already congested parking lot
- Can help with homeless issue by building something usable (like construction of the basketball courts did)
- Add lighting to path around lake for safety
- Some existing benches have views obscured by vegetation
- More lights – more benches – another comfort station = all good places to spend the money instead
- Better uses – yes

- Coffee shop is getting pushed out by kayaks, need a more permanent and rainproof “concession” (applause – get 2/3 vote)
- Need more opportunities for teenagers. Add concrete (ping pong?) tables, or other activities (for teens)
- Pickleball courts – all ages, can be covered and multi-purpose space
- There are no benches near swimming area – big seasonal need and could improve for gathering at this edge
- Is there money for a water feature or small art elements (discrete) ?
- Swimming area used as beach with towels, etc.
- Supports lakefront vegetation that filters off-site uses / contaminants. Kudos to native planting near island; improved soil quality
- Without program, location is pointless

Character

- Look at the style of signage along path as a desired style for benches
- Consider covered area
- Do not put in more asphalt. Do not give up grass. Benches not used so much.
- Aesthetic response – features are too small and scattered about
- Are there other Olmsted character elements we can bring in here?
- Benches are getting more puny, compare to Central Park benches
- historic elements – interpretive
- Cannot see the lake much anymore due to density of trees and vegetation

General

- Friends of Park Rabbits – contact their group if interested; community education is key to addressing issue early, may include info element at seating area with broad focus
- How much “plaza, park, trees, etc.” does this funding buy?
- No proposed size as yet
- Provide rough cost s for elements like benches, plazas etc.

Comments from emails and phone calls

- Several requests for additional benches
- Safety concern about adding plaza next to children’s play area.
- The park is already too heavily used, and additional "amenities" will only increase the use. The park suffers from poor maintenance and facilities, and money would be better spent there. The path needs to have the directional markings. More water fountains; more restrooms, and continued eradication of invasive weeds from the lake banks.
- Park benches are OK but not for reading, much less writing or using a

- laptop. And picnic tables are too high for anything but eating. There's a section of beautiful flowering trees along the east side of Green Lake. It'd be nice if it there could be something similar on the north.
- The Greenlake Community Center would be the perfect place to site a dance pavilion. Open-sided, raised wooden floor, free-span roof with wide overhang, lighting, a band area, simple bench seating all around.